

# COVERSHEET

## EIA Program Report for FY2004-05 And Budget Request for FY 2005-06

EIA PROGRAM NAME: S.C. Middle Grades Initiative

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Program Director: A. Baron Holmes

Address: S.C. Budget and Control Board/ORS, 1000  
Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone 803-734-2291

FAX 803-734-3619

Email [bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us](mailto:bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us)

### PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Program Fiscal Officer/Contact: Sharon Miller-Glenn

Address: Education Oversight Committee, PO Box 11867,  
Columbia, 29211

Telephone 803-734-2805

FAX 803-734-6167

Email [smiller@eoc.state.sc.us](mailto:smiller@eoc.state.sc.us)

PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT: A. Baron Holmes

Signature:

Date:

10/15/04

### FY 2004-05 EIA Program Report

EIA Program Name #1 : Middle Level teacher Education Initiative

The purpose of this report is to determine the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives during the prior fiscal year. The report also requests information on the objectives of the program during the current fiscal year. Please answer the following questions and provide quantifiable results when available.

Effectiveness Measures: (See attached definition of terms and directions)

## **1. What were the objectives of this program during Fiscal Year 2003-04?**

In order to meet the certification regulations of SC and the Teacher Quality requirements of the Federal No Child Left behind Act, the EOC contracted with the South Carolina Middle School Association to provide assistance to IHEs in SC to encourage the development of middle grades teacher training programs. This contract began January 3, 2003 to run through January 2, 2004 and is eligible for annual extensions through January 2, 2008.

Specific goals for 2003-2004 were:

- A. project continuation,
- B. program coordination,
- C. promotion of middle grades program development,
- D. support for emerging professors of middle level education group.

## **2. Were the Fiscal Year 2003-04 objectives met? Please provide specific, quantifiable data and explanations.**

Yes, the program objectives for 2003-2004 were met. The original grant objectives continue to guide this project.

1. Collaborate with the SDE, IHE's and CHE. The grant coordinators have maintained communication and shared oversight of mutual goals and objectives. Presentations at the SCMSA Conference, the Middle Level Symposium, and Summer Leadership provided opportunities to demonstrate the benefits of this collaboration and communicate to a larger audience. Colleges now recognize the need to begin planning for changes to their teacher preparation programs to address the middle level and for revisions to meet general NCATE program requirements.

2. Create an ever-growing base of lead institutions involved in developing middle level programs. A considerable number (16) of IHE's have become active in pursuing middle level teacher education programs: Winthrop University, College of Charleston, Francis Marion University, Presbyterian College, SC State University, Claflin University, Bob Jones University, USC-Aiken, USC-Columbia, USC-Spartanburg, Columbia College, Converse College, Benedict College, Newberry College, The Citadel. These colleges and universities including the host institution, Coastal Carolina University, were all in attendance at the May Symposium. Colleges and universities recognize the need to begin planning for offering middle level teacher preparation programs. The very positive response of the participants in the Symposium is an excellent indicator of institutions' growing interest in developing quality middle level programs.

3. Maintain an electronic database of contacts to assist in communicating with all 31 teacher education institutions. Newsletters distributed electronically to the higher education community have continued to be effective in getting information to those involved and in eliminating the need for unnecessary meetings. A website has recently been introduced to further communication efforts.

4. Monitor impact of NCLB on teacher training. Updates are provided as they become available to keep IHEs updated on changes as they become known. The grant supported attendance at the conference and symposium by SDE staff to present new information on NCLB and related topics.

5. Make stakeholders aware of successful middle level teacher education program models. This objective spurred our planning for the Middle Level Teacher Education Symposium held at Coastal Carolina University in May 2004. The success of that venture led to our obtaining funds to initiate the Content Quality Networks beginning in the 2004-2005 academic year. This additional initiative has added considerable time and scope to the MLTEI project, but will be very important in terms of accomplishing the goal of providing excellent program models.

6. Identify challenges, resources and support needs of IHEs. As we have worked with the IHEs over the past several years, we have learned that they need support in meeting the new NCATE requirements which change to performance standards with the next reporting cycle. In addition, they expressed a need for more intensive, specialized help, which we have provided through the symposium and ongoing networks. We also provided support for the creation of the South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education as a special interest group of the SC Middle School Association.

Through this group, we hope to provide a vehicle for communication that will endure past the grant's lifetime.

Through the efforts addressed in the preceding responses, the grant efforts were satisfactorily accomplished during 2003-2004.

**3. What are the objectives of this program in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05? Explain how, if any, the objectives have changed from the prior fiscal year and why.**

The 2004-2005 objectives encompass the following goals.

A. Continue to implement Middle Level Teacher Education Initiatives as outlined in the original project proposal submitted in 2002. This objective has evolved over the life of the grant to include new strategies to achieve the grant's original intent. The project has grown from the original five lead institutions to include more than half of the 31 teacher education institutions in the state.

B. Coordinate the work of the eight Content Quality Networks, organized to address the development of quality program components in each of the NCATE standards for middle grades. This is a new objective which has been added to ensure that new middle grades programs meet the high standards of quality required for NCATE accreditation.

C. Expand ways of communicating with network institutions and the Content Quality Networks to expedite planning and implementation of new middle level teacher preparation programs. This year a new website will be developed to enhance the communication capabilities of the networks. Grant coordinators will use new forms of technology to make data and resources available to networks.

D. Support the awareness level and provide access to quality information and resources to ensure successful implementation of middle level preparation programs. Invite representatives from each higher education institution to attend the NMSA sponsored National Middle Level Teacher Education Symposium in February 2005, an event that occurs only every other year. Continue to heighten awareness levels by promoting increased presentations at the South Carolina Middle School Association Conference and regional professional development workshops of SCMSA. Maintain a presence at Dean's Meetings, as appropriate.

**4. What measures or data will be used to assess the effectiveness of this program in meeting its objectives for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05?**

A. The original grant objectives will be measured by participation levels in grant activities. Data will be requested of participants to evaluate the effectiveness of grant efforts in supporting middle level program development.

B. The Content Quality Networks efforts will be evaluated through data gathered from the review process included in the proposed guidelines for the activities of each network. The first review due in the fall of 2005 will be a preliminary review with a final document completed by the spring of 2006. The fall 2005 review will provide needed feedback and input to inform the content of the completed reports by each network.

C. Records of the number of times the website is accessed will be used to indicate the effectiveness of using this means of communication. Surveys of the use of other technologies will provide data to determine the continued use, efficiency and effectiveness of using technology to support planning efforts.

D. Monitor the responses to invitations to attend meetings and conferences that focus on middle level education and related issues. Solicit feedback from attendees to determine usefulness of the information gained from those meetings.

**5. What measurable actions will be taken to assure that the program objectives of the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05, will be met?**

Grant coordinators will provide active oversight of grant activities throughout the year. Surveys, informal discussions and data retrieved from work of sub-committees will be available for review.

**EIA Program Name #2 : Data Analysis regarding Adequacy, Equity, and Academic Performance in the Middle Grades**

**Effectiveness Measures: (See attached definition of terms and directions)**

6. What were the objectives of this program during Fiscal Year 2003-04? The program objectives were to investigate the middle grades in the context of the adequacy and equity issues facing the state, districts, and middle grades schools in terms of the Education Accountability Act and the Abbeville case.
7. Were the Fiscal Year 2003-04 objectives met? The objectives were met in terms of carrying out the first phase of data analysis regarding the framework for adequacy and equity analysis. Data was prepared for most of the variables in Rankings for the most recent year on the SDE website, FY'01. Additional data was utilized from the district report cards and from the InSite database. This data was also compared with SC Kids Count indicators by county to show the concentrations of higher problem rates in the more disadvantaged counties.
8. What are the objectives of this program in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05? Explain how, if any, the objectives have changed from the prior fiscal year and why.

During FY'05 the analysis will be continued by looking at data warehouse files to show the concentration of problems in the more disadvantaged districts and schools. This phase of the analysis will attempt to produce data reports at the school level to investigate the adequacy and equity circumstances of middle level schools and how these circumstances affect their performance under the Education Accountability Act.

9. What measures or data will be used to assess the effectiveness of this program in meeting its objectives for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05? The data will be produced and reported in tables organized by the key sorting factors that affect educational outcomes. In fY'04 the data was sorted by district wealth, free and reduced lunch, ethnicity, academic performance, instruction and support expenditures, average teacher pay, and student enrolment. The new data will show how these factors affect performance at the middle school level.
10. What measurable actions will be taken to assure that the program objectives of the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05, will be met? Separate reports will be prepared for the data warehouse indicators by district and schools; and for student performance in the middle grades, as designed in collaboration with EOC staff.

### **EIA Program Name#3 : SREB Making Middle Grades Work**

The purpose of this report is to determine the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives during the prior fiscal year. The report also requests information on the objectives of the program during the current fiscal year. Please answer the following questions and provide quantifiable results when available.

#### **Effectiveness Measures: (See attached definition of terms and directions)**

1. **What were the objectives of this program during Fiscal Year 2003-04?** To increase the number of participating middle school sites in South Carolina as part of the national network. To show improvement in the MMGW assessment and teacher/student surveys as part of the data collection of the comprehensive school improvement process.
2. **Were the Fiscal Year 2003-04 objectives met? Please provide specific, quantifiable data and explanations.** The number of SC schools participating in the network increased from 8 to 24 sites in the 2003-04

school year. Extensive SREB data is available for sites tested. \$11,600 in funds was provided to support SREB efforts. Funds were used to provide technical assistance in the form of technical assistant visits, reports, workshops, MMGW assessments, etc.

3. **What are the objectives of this program in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05? Explain how, if any, the objectives have changed from the prior fiscal year and why.**  
To increase the number of participating middle school sites in South Carolina as part of the national network. To show improvement in the MMGW assessment and teacher/student surveys as part of the data collection of the comprehensive school improvement process.
4. **What measures or data will be used to assess the effectiveness of this program in meeting its objectives for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05?** Assessment data is collected from a sampling of students to look at gains in academic achievement. Teacher and student surveys are collected. SC is looking to add 4 additional sites next year.
5. **What measurable actions will be taken to assure that the program objectives of the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05, will be met?** Assessment data will be collected from student assessment and surveys.

#### **EIA Program Name#4 : Middle Grades Strategic Planning Project**

The purpose of this report is to determine the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives during the prior fiscal year. The report also requests information on the objectives of the program during the current fiscal year. Please answer the following questions and provide quantifiable results when available.

#### **Effectiveness Measures:**

**What were the objectives of this program during Fiscal Year 2003-04?**

This project establishes a priority of accountability toward achieving high academic standards within a middle school climate of academic excellence, expert teachers at teaching young adolescents, a safe and healthy school environment, and community learning and involvement in supporting student academic success through successful long-range strategic planning and the production of a *School Renewal Plan* designed to promote school improvement and high student achievement.

Were the Fiscal Year 2003-04 objectives met? Please provide specific, quantifiable data and explanations.

Eleven pilots were launched at middle schools located throughout the state. All sites targeted strategies related to the objectives listed above and are developing a new five-year *School Renewal Plan*.

What are the objectives of this program in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05? Explain how, if any, the objectives have changed from the prior fiscal year and why.

The objectives of the middle grades strategic planning project are the underpinnings of the goals and strategies in each school's *School Renewal Plan*, due for completion by April 30, 2005. The 2004-05 school year's predominant focus is to implement the appropriate professional development activities as identified in the School Renewal Plan.

What measures or data will be used to assess the effectiveness of this program in meeting its objectives for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05

Evaluation questions will be summarized in the following areas: (1) determination of the efficiency and effectiveness of the methodology by which schools identified needs based on PACT data, profile data found on the report card, and survey data received from teachers, students, and parents; and (2) the extent to which the evidence used in and the analysis made of the needs assessments are valid and reliable means to confirm the identified needs of the school.

**What measurable actions will be taken to assure that the program objectives of the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2004-05, will be met?** In the 2004-05 school year the evaluation will focus on (1) continued staff analysis of needs, (2) on-going reports of actions taken to address needs including methodology, time, location, and participants; (3) the description of the data and procedures for monitoring and adjusting action implementation; (4) descriptions of any changes made based on on-going monitoring; and (5) continuing evidence of implementation of strategies introduced in professional development that enhances accountability and the essential elements of successful middle level practices.

## **FY 2005-06 EIA Budget Request Continued**

- (1) Detailed justification for increase, decrease or maintenance of funding:  
Funding for the Middle Grades Initiative is more critical now than ever before because of the EAA accountability challenges to achieving academic standards in the middle grades and because of NCLB and certification requirements to develop high quality middle grades teacher education programs. The program funding

especially should be maintained because of the pending new Middle Grades Teacher Certification requirements to go into effect in the fall of 2008. This timeframe gives us barely enough time to make recommendations to the colleges and universities facing adding programs for preparing middle level teachers. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 leaves South Carolina no choice but to implement the certification changes and improve the way middle grades teachers are prepared.

- (2) Please complete the following chart which will provide detailed budget and expenditure history.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>2002-03 Actual</b>	<b>2003-04 Actual</b>	<b>2004-05 Estimated</b>	<b>2005-06 Estimated</b>
EIA	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
General Fund				
Lottery				
Fees				
Other Sources				
Grant				
Contributions, Foundation				
Other (Specify)				
Budget Cuts	(\$5,000)	(\$4,530)		
Carry Forward from Prior Year				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$95,470</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2002-03 Actual</b>	<b>2003-04 Actual</b>	<b>2004-05 Estimated</b>	<b>2005-06 Estimated</b>
Personal Service				
Supplies & Materials				
Contractual Services	\$93,867.15	95,010.23	\$95,000	\$95,000
Equipment				
Fixed Charges				
Travel	\$683.39	\$459.77	\$470.00	\$470.00
Allocations to Districts/Schools				
Employer Contributions				
Other: Please explain				
Carry Forward to Prior Year				
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$94,550.54</b>	<b>\$95,470.00</b>	<b>\$95,470.00</b>	<b>\$95,470.00</b>
<b># FTES</b>				



